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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10000 250908Z

21
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 100238
O R 250841Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9160
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 10000

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR
SUBJ: MOSCOW VISIT OF SHAH

REF: TEHRAN 9935

1. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM PROVIDED ME ON NOVEMBER 25 WITH CERTAIN REFINEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE SHAH'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. ALAM STILL DOES NOT HAVE IN PRECISE TERMS EXACTLY IN WHAT ORDER VARIOUS MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED AND ON WHAT DAYS. THIS HE HOPES TO GET STRAIGHTENED OUT WITH ME WHEN HE IS ABLE TO REVIEW THE ACTUAL RECORD OF THE CONVERSATIONS. MEANWHILE, WHAT APPEARS BELOW OCCURED ON THE FIRST DAY, THE SPOKESMAN ON THE SOVIET SIDE BEING BREZHNEV.

2. WHEN BREZHNEV ASKED THE SHAH WHY HE WAS ARMING THE KURDS, THE SHAH REPLIED, ACCORDING TO ALAM: QUOTE I AM ASTONISHED THAT YOU WOULD ASK ME THIS QUESTION. AFTER ALL, YOU ARE DOING THE SAME THING IN NORTH VIETNAM WITH THIS SMALL DIFFERENCE: THE KURDS ARE BEING KILLED BY IRAQIS WHO ARE USING THE MOST MODERN WEAPONS AND HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF ANNIHILATING THEM. THE KURDS DO NOT HAVE THESE MODERN WEAPONS. IN ADDITION, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE AGGR-ESSORS AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM, AND STILL YOU CONTINUE TO HELP THEM. IRAN IS HELPING AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE, YOU ARE HELPING AGGRESSORS. UNQUOTE. AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING THE SOVIETS CHANGED THE
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3. IN DISCUSSING DIEGO GARCIA THE SHAH TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT HE DID NOT ATTACH AS MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE BASE AS THEY DID, BECAUSE THE CAPACITY OF LOGISTIC SHIPS THESE DAYS HAS FUNDAMENTALLY SOLVED THE PROBLEM FOR WHICH MILITARY BASES IN REMOTE PLACES USED TO BE DEVISED. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SINCE DIEGO GARCIA WAS NOT 100 PERCENT AMERICAN, IT DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE THE SAME SIGNIFICANCE AS IT DID IF IT WAERE TOTALLY UNDER US CONTROL. THE SHAH THEN ASKED THE RUSSIANS WHY THEY WERE ASKING HIM QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE DIRECTED TO THE AMERICANS. HE ENDED THE DISCUSSION ON DIEGO GARCIA BY SAYING THAT IRAN WANTS A US PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS LONG AS THE SOVIETS HAVE ONE THEMSELVES. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IRANIAN PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO HAVE NONE OF THE SUPER-POWERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BUT RATHER TO HAVE IT POLICED BY THE LITTORAL STATES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SHAH TOOK THE SAME LINE AS HE DID IN HIS SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCES WHILE VISITING IN EAST ASIA EARLIER THIS YEAR.

4. WHEN THE SOVIETS RAISED THE QUESTION OF CENTO AND ASKED THE SHAH WHY HE WAS REVIVING IT WHEN IT WAS ALMOST MORIBUND, THE SHAH LAUGHED, STARED ACROSS AT THE SOVIET LEADERS, AND SAID: QUOTE NOW HOW IN THE WORLD COULD CENTO BE A MILITARY THREAT TO THE SOVIET UNION? HOW COULD CENTO ACT AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION UNQUOTE. IN OTHER WORDS, HE JOKED THIS ISSUE OUT OF DISCUSSION. THE SHAH ADMITS THAT WHEN IT WAS FIRST RAISED, HE HAD IN MIND TO RETORT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD MADE FRIENDSHIP TREATIES WITH IRAQ AND INDIA. HE IMMEDIATELY DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THAT WAS NOT A POLITIC LINE TO TAKE SINCE IRAN WAS NOW MUCH CLOSER TO INDIA AND THE RUSSIANS MIGHT TELL THE INDIANS OF THE SHAH'S REMARK THEREBY JEOPARDIZING HIS RAPPROCHEMENT EFFORTS.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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